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Georgia Southern hosts largest FGE Day on Statesboro Campus to date

October 8, 2018



FGE Day Knowledge Bowl Champions from Effingham County High School



FGE Day Knowledge Bowl, second place team from Statesboro High School



FGE Day Knowledge Bowl, third place team from Effingham County High School

On Thursday, September 27, over 300 high school students interested in pursuing a teaching career visited Georgia Southern University for Future Georgia Educators (FGE) Day hosted at the Nessmith Lane Conference Center on the Statesboro Campus.

During the event, students were provided various opportunities to learn about the teaching profession. Georgia Southern College of Education faculty and students presented workshop sessions on topics such as assistive technology for special education, school counseling, math education, language and cultural diversity in the classroom, and various teaching technologies that enhance classroom learning.

FGE Day is an initiative that is coordinated by the [Professional Association of Georgia Educators \(PAGE\)](#) in conjunction with colleges

of education in Georgia institutions to provide professional learning, networking and college visitation for students who are considering teaching as a profession.

During the event, PAGE hosted the FGE Knowledge Bowl, where students are challenged with curriculum from their education pathway courses. Effingham County High School teams won first place and third place awards and a Statesboro High School team earned second place in the competition.

Students attended the day-long event from 13 different schools including: Bryan County High School, Burke County High School, Claxton High School, Effingham County High School, Jeff Davis High School, Metter High School, Screven County High School, Southeastern Early College and Career Academy, South Effingham

High School, Statesboro High School, Tattnall County High School, Ware County High School and Wayne County High School.

A junior at Burke County Life Center, Ebani Sherrod explained that she attended FGE Day to try to learn more about teacher-preparation programs so that she can serve as a role model for others in her future career as an educator.

"I love interacting with kids," Sherrod said. "It's up to the teacher to have a positive effect on the students' lives, and when those students get older they will always remember that teacher."

Sherrod says that she often finds herself being an encouragement to her friends and family, trying to remind them that "there is more to life than a bad day."

She says she is looking at Georgia Southern as an option for her college education because “the teacher curriculum is great.”

Fortavious Griffin, Screven County High School senior, knows without a doubt that he wants to work with youth and coach sports.

“Ever since I was young, I like to see little kids learn,” Griffin said. “It touches my heart.”

While Griffin says he can coach any sport, his preference would most likely be basketball. He explained that grade school teachers and coaches make a vast difference in the lives of youth.

“If you have a good influence, you can do a lot,” Griffin said. “The great teachers and coaches I have had... will make me a better teacher in the future.”

Keylee Phillips, junior at Statesboro High School, says she grew up in the hallways of schools as her mother was a teacher and is now employed at the Bulloch County Schools board office. While not certain what age group she would like to work with, Phillips is sure of one thing—“I am interested in special education,” she said.

Given the opportunity in middle school to create an art class for fellow students with special needs, Phillips says she realized traits about herself she never knew she had.

“Patience,” she said. “I don’t always have it, but when I am working with special needs kids I do have this quality as well as a nurturing quality. I feel like I am pulled to these students.”

Phillips also volunteers with special olympics each year and says this has also helped solidify her decision to pursue a degree in special education.

“I have considered Georgia Southern for my education because your special education program is really good,” Phillips added.

For more information about FGE Day, visit <https://www.pageinc.org/fgeday/>

Check out photos from Georgia Southern’s FGE Day on our Facebook page!

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Two Georgia Southern alumnae named top assistant principals in Georgia

October 8, 2018

Two Eagle Educators have been named the top assistant principals of middle and high schools across the state by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP), which annually recognizes outstanding assistant principals from secondary schools.



Tammy Jacobs

Tammy Jacobs ('01,'05) is the assistant principal at South Effingham High School (SEHS) where she has served in administration for 11 years. Jacobs, who completed a bachelor's in secondary mathematics education and a master's in educational leadership from Georgia Southern University, began her career as a classroom math teacher, which she taught for over five years. After shadowing her mentor, who served as an assistant principal, Jacobs felt ready to tackle the job responsibilities and earned a position as assistant principal and testing coordinator at SEHS in 2007. In 2013, her role as assistant principal shifted to a focus on instructional supervision.

"I love helping people," said Jacobs. "I love providing opportunities to see our students, faculty and staff grow as individuals. I enjoy being a problem solver. There are so many situations that come up at our school, and I like making decisions that make our school better."

To top it all off, Jacobs says that her school and community come together as one.

"We are a team," she said. "We call ourselves the Mustang Family."

Jacobs was named both the GASSP High School Assistant Principal of the Year and the 2019 GASSP Assistant Principal of the Year to represent the state of Georgia in the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Assistant Principal of the Year awards.

"This award is even more confirmation that the work I put into SEHS has paid off," she said. "I feel that Georgia Southern equipped me with an educational tool belt that benefits me even to this day. I am proud to be an Eagle."



Elizabeth Bennett, Ed.D.

Fellow Eagle Educator and GASSP Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year award recipient **Elizabeth Bennett, Ed.D. ('05,'11)** serves as the assistant principal and athletic director at Richmond Hill Middle School (RHMS).

Bennett earned a bachelor's in English literature from Ashland University and began working at Armstrong State University (ASU) in 2003 as an instructor and assistant basketball coach while earning a master's in secondary education from ASU. She joined Richmond Hill High School (RHHS) in 2007 as a language arts teacher and head basketball coach, where she continued to serve for the next five years.

Bennett continued her education and earned an Ed.S. Teaching and Learning from Georgia Southern and a doctoral of education from Valdosta State University.

With now 12 years of experience at Bryan County Schools, Bennett says when she "landed" at RHHS, the connection was immediate.

"I loved the students, the school, the atmosphere of teaching and the ability to relate to kids on a level I did not know possible," she said.

Transitioning to administration was not part of Bennett's original plan. After being named both RHHS and Bryan County Schools Teacher of the Year in 2012, she had a mentor who encouraged her to pursue a new challenge in administration utilizing her unique skill set of curriculum and athletic knowledge. In 2013, Bennett earned the position of assistant principal and athletic director at RHMS.

"I miss teaching and coaching every single day, but my new role allows me new challenges and rewards," Bennett said. "I am not an assistant principal at Richmond Hill Middle School because I hope to climb in my career, because I wanted a pay raise, or because I wanted to be out of the classroom. I am the assistant principal because I want to serve students through serving teachers."

GASSP selects both a middle level and high school Assistant Principal of the Year to recognize those who have succeeded in providing high quality in learning experiences for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession. Criteria for the award include personal experience, collaborative leadership, curriculum instruction and assessment.

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